

WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

The conference agreement provides \$625,513,000 for wildland fire management instead of \$292,197,000 as proposed by the House and \$292,679,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Changes to the House included increases of \$132,834,000 for preparedness and \$482,000 for an Alaska rural fire suppression program. The managers have also included a contingent emergency appropriation of \$200,000,000 as an emergency contingency reserve to ensure adequate funding is available to fund critical fire programs in fiscal year 2001.

The managers recognize that the severity of the 2000 fire season is attributable to a variety of factors including unusual weather conditions and accumulated wildland fuels that overwhelmed available Federal agency resources. To prepare better for fires in 2001 and beyond, the managers propose significant improvements to preparedness, fuels treatments, and other aspects of fire management. For the Department of the Interior, the managers provide a total of \$979,253,000 in both emergency and non-emergency funds for: the Department's revised calculation for normal year readiness and certain one-time improvements to preparedness capability; a greatly expanded fuels treatment program that places primary emphasis on community protection; stabilization and rehabilitation of burned areas; and community assistance programs that may be used to develop local capability and homeowner education. The following discussion includes instructions pertaining to both the title I wildfire funds as well as title IV wild-fire funds.

The managers have provided \$625,513,000 in Title I for wildland fire management, of which \$315,406,000 in non-emergency funds for preparedness, an increase of \$133,316,000 over the budget request. The conference agreement includes a \$200,000,000 emergency contingency reserve, to ensure that adequate funds are immediately available to fund these critical programs in FY 2001. The managers have included in title IV for wildland fire management an emergency appropriation of \$353,740,000 which includes \$116,611,000 for wildfire suppression, \$142,129,000 for hazardous fuels, \$85,000,000 for emergency stabilization and rehabilitation, and \$10,000,000 for a new rural fire assistance program. The managers strongly believe that this FY 2001 funding will only be of value in increasing the Nation's firefighting capability and ability to protect communities if it is sustained in future years.

The managers direct the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to continue to work together to formulate complementary budget requests that reflect the same principles and budget organization. In addition, the managers expect the agencies to seek the advice of governors and local and tribal government representatives in setting priorities for fuels treatments, burned area rehabilitation, and public outreach and education.

WILDLAND FIRE PREPAREDNESS

For wildland fire preparedness, the managers provide \$315,406,000 as a non-emergency appropriation in title I, \$132,834,000 above the Senate, including: \$254,838,000 for readiness and program management, \$8,000,000 for fire sciences, \$30,000,000 for deferred maintenance and capital improvement, \$22,086,000 for one-time capital investments, and \$482,000 for a rural Alaska fire suppression program.

The managers understand that the increased scope and intensity of the 1999 and 2000 fire seasons, as well as the increased frequency and severity of fires over the preceding decade, have led Federal fire managers to reassess the assumptions underlying an average fire season. Based on actual experience, especially over the past two years,

Federal fire managers have concluded that the variables used to determine the optimal level of preparedness need to be revised. Numerous variables, including changing assumptions about fire personnel, deployment strategies and other factors affecting cost calculations underlie the recommendations in the agencies' recent report to the President. For example, the duration of the average fire season has steadily increased—by two to three months—over the past several years. The expanded fire season increases the duration of the season for which fire employees are paid and results in increased personnel costs.

The managers support the conclusions of wildfire managers that initial attack capability should be increased to address the number and severity of wildfires that have burned the landscape over the past few years. To address this revised assumption, the managers support full funding for: eight new hotshot crews that will be used for both initial attack on small fires and extended attack on larger fires; twenty new smokejumpers that serve as the primary initial attack force in remote areas; and additional air resources.

Recent experience dictates the need to increase staffing for engines from the current level of five days a week to seven days a week to combat the increasingly volatile fire season. Fire managers have also concluded that more of the firefighting workforce should be permanent seasonal, an employment status that entitles workers to benefits not earned by temporary employees. The managers support the recommendation to convert more than 1,000 positions to permanent seasonal status, as a retention incentive to ensure that a sustained cadre of professional firefighters is available when needed. This increase in overall readiness costs should prove beneficial in the long run to the government's ability to address fire readiness, overall program management, and reduce overall costs by putting out wildfires when they are small.

It is the managers' understanding that readiness and program management cost calculations have increased due to changes in resource objectives such as protection of newly discovered cultural artifacts and new land ownership patterns. In recent years costs associated with human settlement into the urban-wildland interface have risen faster than models could accurately describe and are underrepresented in average cost calculations. The managers also understand that additional wildfire management personnel will require additional equipment and appropriate work environments, and that work conditions must emphasize firefighter and public safety. Therefore, the managers have included within the preparedness activity sufficient resources to provide the equipment, office, and storage space necessary to provide safe and efficient operations. Additional funds provided under this appropriation for facilities are to be used to fund the highest priority health and safety needs, as identified in the Department's five-year plan for deferred maintenance and capital improvements.

The managers support an acceleration of research activities and expanded emphasis for the Joint Fire Science Program and have provided an additional \$4,000,000 respectively to the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to support the recommendations regarding scientific support for fuels treatments and other science needs beyond hazardous fuels. These funds are in addition to the \$4,000,000 provided for each agency as part of the Administration's original budget request. Additional funds should be used for such efforts as increased rapid response projects to ensure necessary resources are

available for testing and evaluation of post-fire rehabilitation, assessment of post-fire and fire behavior effects, use of aircraft-based remote sensing operations, implementation of protocols for evaluating post-fire stabilization and rehabilitation, and the development of effective means for collecting and disseminating information about treatment techniques. The managers expect the increased funds to be made available to the Joint Fire Science activities of the Departments for the direct benefit of fire management programs, including burned area rehabilitation.

One means of directly benefiting wildfire management programs is to address locally and regionally important science and technology needs associated with wildfire management and suppression, fuels management, and post-fire rehabilitation without requiring national-level requests for proposals. Thus, the managers expect the Joint Fire Sciences Governing Board to make a significant portion of the increased funds directly available to the fire management programs of the Agriculture and Interior Departments to fund projects that directly address locally and regionally important science and technology needs associated with fire management and suppression, fuels management, and post-fire rehabilitation. The managers further expect the Departments to ensure that these programs are implemented within existing structures without new program management or other overhead activities that might reduce the direct benefit of funds provided.

The January 1998 Joint Fire Science Plan developed by the two Departments and submitted to the Congress included provisions for a Stakeholder Advisory Group of technical experts from land management organizations, private industry, academia, other Federal agencies, and the public to formulate recommendations for program priorities and advise the Joint Fire Science Program Governing Board. This Group is to be established under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The managers are concerned that nearly three years have passed without establishment of this group. The managers direct the Secretaries to establish the group by December 31, 2000.

WILDLAND FIRE OPERATIONS

For wildland fire operations, the managers provide \$468,847,000 of which \$353,740,000 is funded in title IV as an emergency appropriation. This funding level includes \$153,447,000 to cover costs of the ten-year average of suppression, \$195,400,000 for hazardous fuels reduction, and \$85,000,000 for rehabilitation of burned areas.

The managers encourage continued emphasis on safety as a priority in the suppression program. Funding provided under this appropriation is expected to provide for the most efficient and safe strategy for the protection of life, property, and resources. Funding is included to cover the projected 10-year average of suppression expenditures for the Department.

The managers have provided \$195,000,000 for hazardous fuels management activities. These funds are to support activities on Federal lands and adjacent non-Federal lands, which reduce the risks and consequences of wildfire, both in and around communities and in wildland areas. Treatment methods include application of prescribed fire, mechanical removal, mulching, and application of chemicals. In many areas a combination of these methods will be necessary over a period of several years to reduce risks and to maintain healthy and viable forests and rangelands. The increased funding included in this appropriation will expand the existing fuels management program to reduce

risks to communities and risks to natural resources in high-risk areas. As proposed by the Senate, the managers have included \$120,300,000 for the Department of the Interior to accelerate treatments, planning efforts, and collaborative projects with non-Federal partners in the wildland-urban interface. This funding is provided as part of the Department's ongoing fuels treatment program, but must be dedicated to projects within the urban-wildland interface.

The managers understand that fuels treatment accomplishments have been constrained by a lack of funding to conduct planning, assessments, clearances, consultation, and environmental analyses necessary for the land management and regulatory agencies to ensure that fuels treatments are accomplished quickly and in an environmentally sound manner. The managers agree that additional funding should be made available from this appropriation to conduct such assessments and clearances, in the interests of expediting fuels treatments in an environmentally sound manner. Funds may be used directly by the Bureau of Land Management, or on a reimbursable basis with National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, or National Marine Fisheries Service, to provide for appropriate planning and clearances. Funding will also be available for supporting community-based efforts to address defensible space and fuels management issues and to support outreach and education efforts associated with fuels management and risk reduction activities. In conducting treatments, local contract personnel are to be used wherever possible. The managers expect the Department to show planned and actual funding and accomplishments for fuels management activities in future budget requests to Congress. The managers understand that actual amounts may differ from planned levels and agree that the agencies have the ability to fund additional projects and amounts based on actual needs.

Within the amounts provided for wildland-urban treatments, \$8,800,000 is to be made available to the Ecological Restoration Institute (ERI) of Northern Arizona University, through a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Land Management, to support new and existing ecologically-based forest restoration activities in ponderosa pine forests. The managers' goal is to develop a scientifically based model that will promote restoration of the ecological health of forests in the southwest, while reducing the threat of wildfire to forest communities. Under this agreement, the managers expect that ERI will: (1) research, develop, monitor, and conduct fuels treatments in partnership with all Federal, Tribal, State, and private landowners to demonstrate the feasibility of restoration-based fuels treatments on a community-level; (2) conduct an adaptive ecosystem analysis of ponderosa pine and related forests as a prototype for larger ecosystem analyses, and to fill the gap between project or district/forest level analyses and regional analyses to support future operational scale treatments; (3) develop options and recommendations for developing markets for by-products of fuels treatment activities; (4) hold community workshops to design suitable treatments, training and information transfer to land managers, and information development and transfer to inform the public and land managers about ecologically-based treatments. Recognizing the importance of cooperative agreements, the managers request that the Bureau place a priority on timely negotiation and implementation of this agreement to ensure the prompt availability of funding pursuant to it, and that the Bureau conduct negotiations at the national level. The agreement shall not in-

clude funding for facilities or capital equipment like buildings and vehicles.

Included within the amounts for wildland fire operations is increased funding for burned area rehabilitation to address short term and long-term detrimental consequences of wildfires. The managers note that wildland fires burning under the right conditions, are beneficial and even essential to the health of forests and rangelands. However, some severe wildfires can trigger a wide array of detrimental impacts, ranging from short term floods, debris flow, and loss of water quality to longer term invasion by non-native species and loss of productivity of the land. The increased funding for burned area rehabilitation is designed to prevent further degradation of resources following wildland fire through (1) short-term stabilization activities to protect life and property, protect municipal watersheds, and prevent unacceptable degradation of critical natural and cultural resources, and (2) longer-term rehabilitation activities to repair and improve lands unlikely to recover naturally from severe fire damage. The managers direct the agencies to develop a long-term program to manage and supply native plant materials for use in various Federal land management restoration and rehabilitation needs. The managers recommend that the interagency native plant conservation initiative lead this effort.

It is essential to monitor over the long-term various wildfire operations and rehabilitation activities and use this evaluation to alter future activities where indicated. The managers expect that funding for burned area rehabilitation will be available from this appropriation for only a limited period of time, after which ongoing site maintenance must be funded from the land management bureaus' appropriate operating accounts. In conducting stabilization and rehabilitation treatments, local contract personnel should be used wherever possible. The managers expect the Department to show planned and actual funding and accomplishments for stabilization and rehabilitation activities in future budget requests to Congress. The managers understand that actual amounts may differ from planned levels, and agree that the agencies have the ability to fund additional projects and amounts based on actual needs.

The managers direct the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to report to the Appropriations Committees, by December 1, 2000, on criteria for rehabilitation projects to be funded from this appropriation.

Rural fire assistance

For rural fire assistance, the managers provide \$10,000,000 for the Department of the Interior in a pilot effort to enhance the fire protection capability of rural fire districts. Training, equipment purchase, and prevention activities are to be conducted on a cost-shared basis. The managers recognize that safe and effective protection in the urban-wildland interface demands close coordination between local, State, Tribal, and Federal firefighting resources. When large Interior landholdings are present, the managers support an expanded relationship between the Interior Department and other governments for purposes of developing local fire prevention capability on a cost-shared basis.

CENTRAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS FUND

The conference agreement provides \$10,000,000 for the central hazardous materials fund as proposed by the House and Senate.

CONSTRUCTION

The conference agreement provides \$16,860,000 for construction instead of \$5,300,000 as proposed by the House and \$15,360,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Increases Above the House by Project

Project	Cost
Rock Springs admin. Building	\$3,000,000
Caliente admin. Building ..	1,605,000
Susie Creek bridge	295,000
Hult Pond dam	400,000
Margie's Cove trail	95,000
Muskrat Springs water system	70,000
Dutch Joe road	235,000
Escalante science center ...	1,000,000
Coldfoot visitor center	3,760,000
Fort Benton visitor center ..	400,000
California Trail interpretive center	200,000
Blackwell Island facility ...	500,000

The managers encourage the Bureau to work with the town of Escalante and Garfield County, UT to ensure that the construction of the science center is consistent with the Escalante Center master plan.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

The conference agreement provides \$150,000,000 for payments in lieu of taxes instead of \$144,385,000 as proposed by the House and \$148,000,000 as proposed by the Senate.

LAND ACQUISITION

The conference agreement provides \$31,100,000 for land acquisition instead of \$19,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$10,600,000 as proposed by the Senate. Funds should be distributed as follows:

Area (State)	Amount
Cerbat Foothills (AZ)	\$750,000
El Dorado County (native plant preserve) (CA)	5,000,000
Gunnison Basin ACEC (CO)	2,000,000
Lower Salmon River ACEC (ID)	2,000,000
North Platte River (WY) ...	250,000
Organ Mtns. (NM)	2,000,000
Otay Mountain/Kuchamaa HCP (CA)	1,000,000
Potomac River (MD)	1,000,000
Potrero Creek (CA)	2,000,000
San Pedro Ecosystem (easements only) (AZ)	3,000,000
Sandy River (OR)	750,000
Santa Rosa Mtns. NSA (CA)	1,000,000
Snake River Birds of Prey NCA (ID)	500,000
Upper Crab Creek (WA)	2,000,000
Upper Snake/S. Fork Snake R. (ID)	2,000,000
West Eugene Wetlands (OR)	1,350,000
Subtotal	26,600,000
Emergency/hardship/inholding	1,500,000
Acquisition management ..	3,000,000
Total	31,100,000

The amounts provided for the Santa Rosa Mountains and the Potomac River complete the Federal investment in these areas.

The managers have included \$2,000,000 for acquisition of the Potrero Creek property in Southern California. These funds may not be expended until the BLM has completed an appraisal using accepted and standard government land appraisal techniques. The managers direct the BLM to begin work on the appraisal within 30 days of enactment of this Act.

OREGON AND CALIFORNIA GRANT LANDS

The conference agreement provides \$104,267,000 for Oregon and California grant lands as proposed by the Senate instead of \$100,467,000 as proposed by the House.

Increases above the House include \$350,000 for uncontrollable costs, \$3,000,000 for survey and manage, and \$350,000 for annual maintenance.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

The conference agreement provides an indefinite appropriation for range improvements of not less than \$10,000,000 as proposed by the House and Senate.

SERVICE CHARGES, DEPOSITS, AND FORFEITURES

The conference agreement provides an indefinite appropriation for service charges, deposits, and forfeitures which is estimated to be \$7,500,000 as proposed by the House and Senate.

MISCELLANEOUS TRUST FUNDS

The conference agreement provides an indefinite appropriation of \$7,700,000 for miscellaneous trust funds as proposed by the House and Senate.

UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The conference agreement provides \$776,595,000 for resource management instead of \$731,400,000 as proposed by the House and \$763,442,000 as proposed by the Senate. The numerical changes described below are to the House recommended level.

In the endangered species listing program, there is a decrease of \$40,000 for the borderlands program. In consultation, there are increases of \$18,000 for forest planning, \$2,000 for Everglades, \$1,500,000 for cold water fish in Montana and Idaho, \$270,000 for the California/Nevada desert resource initiative, \$1,000,000 for Central Valley and Southern California habitat conservation planning, \$500,000 for bighorn sheep conservation in Nevada and a general increase of \$1,000,000 for other consultations.

Increases in the recovery program include \$5,000,000 for matching grants for Pacific salmon conservation and restoration in Washington, \$100,000 for the Citizens' Management Committee as defined by alternative one of the final EIS for grizzly bear recovery in the Bitterroot ecosystem, \$288,000 for wolf recovery in Idaho, \$100,000 for wolf monitoring by the Nez Perce tribe, \$600,000 for eider research at the Alaska SeaLife Center, \$600,000 for Lahontan cutthroat trout restoration and \$500,000 for the black capped vireo in Texas. Decreases in the recovery program include \$498,000 for the Bruneau Hot Springs snail and \$398,000 for the Prebles meadow jumping mouse.

In habitat conservation, increases include \$1,400,000 for Washington salmon enhancement, \$4,000 for bull trout recovery in Washington, \$500,000 for private lands conservation efforts in Hawaii, \$50,000 for rehabilitation of the White River in Indiana in response to a recent fish kill, \$252,000 in project planning for the Middle Rio Grande Bosque program and \$350,000 for Long Live the Kings and Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group.

In the environmental contaminants program, there is an increase of \$400,000 for baseline data on subsistence foods in Alaska.

Changes in refuge operations and maintenance include a general increase of \$314,000 for refuge operations and a decrease of \$445,000 for the borderlands program.

In migratory bird management, increases include \$575,000 to reduce sea bird by-catch in Alaska, \$2,050,000 for joint ventures, subject to the distribution described below, and a general increase of \$1,000,000.

Law enforcement operations increases include \$7,000,000 to fill vacancies and to train and equip new personnel and \$360,000 for staffing and operations associated with the new port of entry designation in Anchorage, Alaska.

Increases in hatchery operations and maintenance include \$5,000,000 for the Washington Hatchery Improvement Project, \$184,000 for marking of hatchery salmon in Washington and \$400,000 for the hatchery restoration/re-

covery program proposed in the budget request. In fish and wildlife management, there are increases of \$8,000 for whirling disease research to be distributed as proposed by the Senate, \$50,000 for the Regional Mark Processing Center, \$11,051,000 for the Alaska subsistence program, \$750,000 for the Klamath River flow study, \$500,000 for Trinity River restoration, \$200,000 for Yukon River fisheries management studies and \$100,000 for Yukon River Salmon Treaty education efforts.

The \$5,000,000 proposed by the Senate as an emergency appropriation for Atlantic salmon restoration is addressed in the emergency title of the conference agreement.

In general administration, increases include \$100,000 in international affairs for the tundra to tropics program, \$500,000 for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and \$2,000,000 for Pingree Forest non-development easements in Maine to be handled through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Bill Language.—The conference agreement earmarks \$1,000,000 for the Youth Conservation Corps as proposed by the House instead of \$2,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The earmark for endangered species listing programs is \$6,355,000 as proposed by the Senate rather than \$6,395,000 as proposed by the House. The Senate proposal to provide \$5,000,000 in emergency funding for Atlantic salmon restoration in Maine has been modified to require a cost share and included in the emergency appropriations title.

The managers agree to the following:

1. The increase provided in consultation for cold water fish in Montana and Idaho are for preparation and implementation of plans, programs, or agreements identified by the States of Idaho and Montana that will address habitat for freshwater aquatic species on non-Federal lands. These funds will supplement funds that have already been allocated by the States and will only be expended for landowners that are voluntarily enrolled in such plans, programs, or agreements. The amount provided is to be split equally between Montana and Idaho.

2. While there is no specific earmark for the Prebles meadow jumping mouse in the recovery program, the managers expect the Service to continue work in this area.

3. The increase proposed by the Senate in habitat conservation for an Alaska Village Initiative for a commercial management program is not included in this account but is addressed under the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

4. While there is no specific increase for alien species control in the refuge operations and maintenance account, the Service is encouraged to place a priority on these activities in the refuge operating needs system.

5. The Service, within its fixed cost increases should ensure that a base increase is provided to cover the recently hired maintenance worker at the Ohio River Islands NWR, WV. The cost for fiscal year 2001 is estimated to be \$45,000. The Service should ensure that the annualized costs for new personnel are adequately reflected in its fixed cost increase budget estimates each year.

6. Any future funding for the Klamath River flow study and the Trinity River restoration study will only be considered after the Administration has clearly identified the full estimated costs for these programs and the appropriate amounts to be budgeted by the various agencies involved for each year. The fiscal year 2002 budget justification should include an interagency crosscut table for each of these programs.

7. The managers have not agreed to the Senate language requiring "conclusive evidence" that the recovery zone can support grizzly bears prior to their relocation in

Idaho and Montana. The managers, however, agree that no funds appropriated in this Act should be spent on the physical relocation of grizzly bears into the Selway-Bitterroot Ecosystem in Idaho and Montana prior to the completion of a peer review of the habitat study, and a conclusion based upon the best available scientific data that the recovery zone can adequately support the proposed grizzly population.

8. The managers have not agreed to the Senate language requiring that wolves that stray into Oregon be removed. The managers, however, expect the Service to learn from the mistakes made in the New Mexico wolf introduction program and to coordinate extensively with the public at every stage of the wolf reintroduction and recovery program. The protocols to be followed should be developed in close consultation with the public.

9. The managers are concerned by the Service's failure to conduct population estimation, population reassessment, and desert tortoise monitoring as described in the 1994 Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan. The managers expect the Service to undertake such work in fiscal year 2001. The methodology to be used in conducting the monitoring should be designed to permit correlation with the data gathered between 1980 and 2000.

10. General increases have been provided for refuge operations and maintenance. These increases should be distributed in accordance with the priorities set forth in the refuge operating needs system and the maintenance management system.

11. The increase provided in the environmental contaminants program is to develop baseline data on contaminants identified by the Arctic Council as threats in wildlife that are subsistence foods in Alaska. The funding also may be used to sample, in partnership with scientists employed by local governments, wildlife remains found in sudden, unexpected die-offs.

12. The projects proposed by the Senate for the Canaan Valley NWR, WV, and the Kealia Pond NWR, HI are addressed in the construction account.

13. The Service should follow the direction in the Senate report with respect to the release of proklesia to control Spartina grass in conjunction with mowing and spraying.

14. The September 1, 2000 reprogramming request submitted by the Service to address administrative cost realignments, rental cost increases and increased administrative costs is approved. The Service should ensure that all necessary base adjustments are made in the 2002 budget within the fixed cost category to reflect correctly these "uncontrollable" costs.

15. The managers have recently become aware of a General Accounting Office review of procedures in the Carlsbad, CA, ecological services office. In particular, the managers are concerned by reports from GAO that automated systems are inadequate. The fiscal year 2002 budget request should address this problem.

Joint Ventures.—Funds for joint venture programs are to be distributed in fiscal year 2001 as shown in the following table. In addition, the managers expect the Service to phase in additional funding over the next three years to achieve the levels specified in the table for fiscal year 2004. To the extent that the funding specified for 2004 is insufficient, the managers do not object to a proposal for higher funding levels for joint ventures. The Service is urged to re-evaluate all their "optimal" funding calculations and, in particular, the sea duck joint venture calculation and report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations if any of those amounts should be raised. The managers note that the joint venture programs

have leveraged a small amount of Federal funding many times over to accomplish much needed habitat improvements throughout the country.

JOINT VENTURES FUNDING

	Fiscal year 2001	Target level fiscal year 2004
Atlantic Coast	\$380,000	\$800,000
Lower Mississippi	502,000	750,000
Upper Mississippi	240,000	650,000
Prairie Pothole	1,185,000	1,400,000
Gulf Coast	340,000	700,000
Playa Lakes	225,000	700,000
Rainwater Basin	225,000	400,000
Intermountain West	240,000	1,000,000
Central Valley	360,000	550,000
Pacific Coast	240,000	700,000
San Francisco Bay	225,000	370,000
Sonoran	225,000	400,000
Arctic Goose	140,000	370,000
Black Duck	110,000	370,000
Sea Duck	250,000	550,000
Administration	599,000	750,000
Total	5,486,000	10,460,000

CONSTRUCTION

The conference agreement provides \$63,015,000 for construction instead of \$48,395,000 as proposed by the House and \$54,803,000 as proposed by the Senate.

Funds are to be distributed as follows:

Project	Description	Amount
Alaska Maritime NWR, AK	Headquarters/Visitor Center	\$593,000
Alchesay/Williams Creek	Environmental Pollution	927,000
NFH, AZ	Control—Phase II (c).	
Anahuac NWR, TX	Bridge Rehab/Replacement—Phase I (p/d)(c).	673,000
Bear River NWR, UT	Water management facilities (c).	500,000
Bear River NWR, UT	Education Center (c)	3,600,000
Blackwater NWR, MD	Carpentry/Auto Shop	300,000
Bozeman FTC, MT	Laboratory/Administration Building—Phase II (c).	1,600,000
Bridge Safety Inspection		495,000
Cabo Rojo NWR, PR	Replace Office Building (Seismic)—Phase I (p/d).	500,000
Canaan Valley NWR, WV	Heavy equipment replacement.	350,000
Chincoteague NWR, VA	Headquarters & Visitor Center—Phase II (c).	3,500,000
Clarks River NWR, KY	Garage and visitor access ..	500,000
Coleman NFH, CA	Seismic Safety Rehab of 3 buildings—Phase I (p/d).	301,000
Dam Safety Inspection		570,000
Ennis NFH, MT	Raceway Enclosure—Phase II (c).	1,000,000
Great Dismal Swamp NWR, VA	Planning and public use	250,000
Hagerman NWR, TX	Bridge Rehabilitation—Phase I (p/d).	368,000
Jackson NFH, WY	Seismic Safety Rehab of 2 Buildings—Phase I (p/d).	373,000
John Heinz NWR, PA	Administrative wing	800,000
Kealia Pond NWR, HI	Water control structures	700,000
Kodiak NWR, AK	Visitor Center/planning	180,000
Lake Thibadeau NWR, MT	Lake Thibadeau Diversion Dam—Phase II (c).	450,000
Leavenworth NFH, WA	Nada Dam—Phase II SEED Study.	300,000
Mason Neck NWR, VA	ADA accessibility (c)	130,000
Mason Neck NWR, VA	Non-motorized trail	600,000
Nat'l Eagle Repository, CO	Relocation of National Eagle Repository—Phase II (d/c).	400,000
Nat'l Wildlife Repository, CO	Renovation of National Wildlife Property Repository—Phase II (d/c).	950,000
Nat'l Conservation Training Ctr., WV	Fourth Dormitory (p/d/c)	12,750,000
NFW Forensics Lab, OR	Forensics Laboratory Expansion—Phase II (d/c).	1,838,000
Noxubee NWR, MS	Visitor Center (c)	2,000,000
Parker River NWR, MA	Headquarters Complex (c) ..	1,230,000
Pittsford NFH, VT	Planning and design/hatchery rehabilitation.	300,000
San Pablo Bay NWR, CA	Renovate Office—Phase I (p/d).	275,000
Seatuck & Sayville NWRs, NY	Visitor facilities	115,000
Silvio O. Conte NWR, VT	Education Center	1,512,000
Six NFHs	Water Treatment Improvement—Phase II (c).	2,500,000
Sonny Bono Salton Sea NWR, CA	Seismic Safety Rehab of 1 Building—Phase I (p/d).	55,000
Tern Island NWR, HI	Rehabilitate Seawall—Phase III (c).	8,600,000
Tishomingo NFH, OK	Pennington Creek Foot Bridge—Phase II (c).	229,000
White River NWR, AR	Visitor Center construction ..	1,100,000
White Sulphur Springs NFH, WV	Holding and propagation	350,000
White Sulphur Springs NFH, WV	Office renovations	20,000
Subtotal: Line item Construction.		53,784,000

Project	Description	Amount
Nationwide Engineering Services:		
Demolition Fund		1,389,000
Env. Compliance		1,860,000
Seismic Safety Program		200,000
Other Engineering Services.		5,782,000
Subtotal: Engineering Services.		9,231,000
Grant total		63,015,000

The managers agree to the following:

1. Funds for the Clarks River NWR, KY, garage and visitor contact station complete the project.

2. The Downeast Heritage Center, ME, project proposed by the Senate is addressed in the National Park Service.

3. The administrative wing at the John Heinz NWR, PA, will eliminate the need for rent associated with temporary office space. The managers note that the John Heinz refuge has done an admirable job in raising private funds for visitors' center construction.

4. The Service should pursue cost-sharing opportunities for the Kealia Pond NWR, HI, water control structure project.

5. The total cost for the Kodiak NWR, AK, Administrative and Visitors' Center should not exceed \$10 million of which the Fish and Wildlife Service maximum share is \$7 million and the cost share is \$3 million.

6. The funding provided for a fourth dormitory at the National Conservation Training Center, WV, will complete the dormitory project and fully fund the connection of the facility to the city water supply.

7. Funds for the Noxubee NWR, MS, Administrative and Visitors' Center will complete the Fish and Wildlife Service commitment to the project.

8. The Service should, as soon as possible, notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, of the total estimated cost for the Pittsford NFH, VT, hatchery rehabilitation project.

9. Funds for the Silvio O. Conte NWR, VT, Education Center will complete the Fish and Wildlife Service commitment to the project. Any additional funding requirements should be accommodated with non-Department of the Interior funds.

10. No funds are included for the Waccamaw NWR, SC, Visitors' Center. This refuge has not yet been opened. The managers urge the Service to include this project, as appropriate, in their priority system for future consideration.

11. Funds for the White River NWR, AR, Administrative and Visitors' Center, in combination with previously appropriated funds, will complete the Fish and Wildlife Service commitment to the project. The remaining \$600,000 required for the visitors' center portion of the project should be accommodated with non-Department of Interior funds.

12. Funds for the holding and propagation facility at the White Sulphur Springs NFH, WV, will complete the project.

Bill Language.—The conference agreement includes bill language directing the release of previously appropriated funds for exhibits at the Ding Darling NWR, FL.

LAND ACQUISITION

The conference agreement provides \$62,800,000 for land acquisition instead of \$30,000,000 as proposed by the House and \$46,100,000 as proposed by the Senate. Funds should be distributed as follows:

Area (State)	Amount
Archie Carr NWR (FL)	\$2,000,000
Back Bay NWR (VA)	500,000
Balcones Canyonlands NWR (TX)	1,750,000
Big Muddy NWR (MO)	1,000,000
Bon Secour NWR (AL)	1,000,000

Area (State)	Amount
Buenos Aires NWR (AZ)	1,000,000
Canaan Valley NWR (WV)	500,000
Cat Island NWR (LA)	1,500,000
Centennial Valley NWR (MT)	1,750,000
Clarks River NWR (KY)	500,000
Dakota Tallgrass Prairie Project (SD)	2,100,000
Edwin B. Forsythe NWR (NJ)	1,000,000
Grand Bay NWR (AL)	1,150,000
Great Meadows Complex (MA)	1,000,000
Hakalau Forest NWR (HI)	1,000,000
Lake Umbagog NWR (NH)	1,500,000
Leslie Canyon NWR (AZ) ...	2,000,000
Louisiana Black Bear NWR (LA)	1,000,000
Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR (TX)	500,000
Minnesota Valley NWR (MN)	500,000
Montezuma NWR (NY)	2,000,000
Neal Smith NWR (IA)	600,000
North Dakota Prairie Project (ND)	800,000
Northern Tallgrass NWR (MN)	1,000,000
Ohio River Islands NWR (WV)	500,000
Palmyra Atoll/Kingman Reef (HI)	1,000,000
Patoka River NWR (IN)	800,000
Pelican Island NWR (Lea tract) (FL)	3,200,000
Prime Hook NWR (DE)	1,300,000
Rachel Carson NWR (ME) ..	1,000,000
Rappahannock River NWR (VA)	1,000,000
Rhode Island NWR Complex (RI)	1,500,000
San Diego NWR (CA)	3,000,000
Silvio O. Conte NWR (CT/MA/NH/VT)	750,000
Stewart B. McKinney NWR (CT)	1,500,000
Waccamaw NWR (SC)	1,000,000
Walkill River NWR (NJ)	1,000,000
Wertheim NWR (NY)	2,000,000
Western Montana Project (MT)	1,000,000
Whittlesey Creek NWR (WI)	500,000
Willapa NWR (WA)	2,000,000

Subtotal	50,700,000
Emergencies/Hardships	750,000
Exchanges	850,000
Inholdings	1,000,000
Acquisition Management ..	9,500,000

Total **\$62,800,000**

COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

The conference agreement provides \$26,925,000 for the cooperative endangered species conservation fund as proposed by the Senate instead of \$23,000,000 as proposed by the House. The increase above the House is for habitat conservation planning land acquisition.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FUND

The conference agreement provides \$11,439,000 for the National wildlife refuge fund instead of \$10,439,000 as proposed by the House and \$10,000,000 as proposed by the Senate. The managers urge the Service to request increased funds for this account in future budget requests commensurate with increases in land acquisition.

NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION FUND

The conference agreement provides \$20,000,000 for the North American wetlands conservation fund instead of \$15,499,000 as proposed by the House and \$16,500,000 as proposed by the Senate. Within this amount,

\$19,200,000 is for wetlands conservation and \$800,000 is for administration.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND APPRECIATION FUND

The conference agreement provides \$797,000 for the wildlife conservation and appreciation fund as proposed by both the House and the Senate.

MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND

The conference agreement provides \$2,500,000 for the multinational species conservation fund as proposed by the Senate instead of \$2,391,000 as proposed by the House.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

The conference agreement provides \$1,389,144,000 for the operation of the National park system instead of \$1,426,476,000 as proposed by the House and \$1,367,554,000 as proposed by the Senate (excluding U.S. Park Police funding, which is included in a new appropriations account). The agreement provides \$283,465,000 for Resource Stewardship instead of \$275,124,000 as proposed by the House and \$279,375,000 as proposed by the Senate. Changes to the House level include \$900,000 for Learning Centers, \$1,107,000 for native and exotic species management, \$1,034,000 for Alaska subsistence fisheries, \$1,750,000 for vegetation mapping, \$825,000 for water resources restoration and protection, \$1,275,000 for water quality monitoring, \$500,000 for the Everglades Task Force, \$250,000 for museum management, \$400,000 for Vanishing Treasures and \$300,000 for the ongoing Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Partnership. These funds are not intended to be used to initiate any portion of the proposed digitization initiative in the budget.

The conference agreement provides \$279,871,000 for Visitor Services as proposed by the Senate. Changes to the House level include \$1,000,000 for the 2001 Presidential Inaugural and \$235,000 for Regional office park support.

The conference agreement provides \$78,048,000 for the U.S. Park Police in a new appropriations account that follows this account.

The conference agreement provides \$469,703,000 for maintenance instead of \$446,661,000 as proposed by the House and \$449,203,000 as proposed by the Senate. Increases to the House level include \$20,000,000 for additional maintenance and operational needs of the Service. Following enactment of the Bill, the National Park Service should make the necessary adjustments to align these additional funds for the purposes approved by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with the proper budget subactivity. Two specific needs provided for in this increase are \$975,000 for the 9 National Trails and a \$2,300,000 base increase for Harpers Ferry Design Center.

In addition, the managers have provided increases of \$42,000 for regional office park support, \$2,000,000 for facility management software and \$1,000,000 for condition assessments. The conference agreement does not include the general increase for maintenance as proposed by the House. Although the managers have provided funds for the maintenance management system and building condition assessments, the managers remain concerned that the improvements provided by these efforts will take too long to implement and may still not fully document the complete maintenance backlog of the Service, as required by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and by statute, within the next few years. Therefore, by April 2001, a report is to be provided to the Committees that describes how and when the Service will provide a park by park comprehensive listing, with cost estimates, of

deferred maintenance affecting all facilities in the National Park Service, including buildings, historic structures, roads, trails, utility systems, campgrounds, picnic areas and all other items requiring maintenance and repair. The Service should also address the issue raised by the Committees concerning why large parks cannot conduct their own condition assessment internally and without additional funds.

Within in the amounts provided for repair and rehabilitation, the managers earmark the following projects: \$350,000 to repair the lighthouse at Fire Island NS (this amount is not intended to initiate planning for a new visitor center), \$75,000 to repair the Ocean Beach Pavilion at Fire Island, NS, \$309,000 for repairs of the Bachlott House and \$100,000 for the Alberty House which are both located at Cumberland Island NS, and \$500,000 for maintenance projects at the Ozark National Scenic Riverways Park.

The conference agreement provides \$259,178,000 for Park Support instead of \$254,628,000 as proposed by the House and \$262,178,000 as proposed by the Senate. Changes to the House level include \$500,000 for regional office park support, \$750,000 for mid-level management intake training program, \$100,000 for Wild and Scenic Rivers (existing partnership rivers), \$200,000 for a wilderness study at Apostle Islands NL and \$3,000,000 for the Challenge cost share program for activities related to the anniversary of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The amount provided for Lewis and Clark related activities are for the purposes described in the Senate report, but include \$2,000,000 for a major national traveling exhibition that will include more than 200 Lewis and Clark original artifacts, artworks and manuscripts. This funding must be matched by private sources.

The conference agreement provides \$96,927,000 for External Administrative Costs as proposed by the Senate. Changes to the House include \$2,000,000 for GSA rental space needs. The conference agreement does not include the \$66,500,000 general increase proposed by the House.

Through a combination of appropriated funds, recreational fee demonstration project revenues, partnerships, and other sources, the National Park system has unprecedented levels of funding available to it to address critical resource protection and visitor service requirements. The managers emphasize the importance of applying prudent and sound financial management practices to ensure the integrity of these funding sources, particularly with regard to tracking for accountability purposes. Consistent with Comptroller General opinions, appropriations are not to be augmented with other funding sources. Projects that are identified to be completed for an identified amount of funding, regardless of fund source, are to be completed as proposed. Any additional resources to be applied to a project constitute a reprogramming and are subject to the established guidelines. The managers are particularly concerned about construction projects for which bids come in above estimates, and the proposed solution is to defer exhibits and to fund the remaining elements at a later date using a different fund source, such as fees. This is not an appropriate use of the fee program.

The managers direct that the National Park Service make sufficient funds available to assure that signs marking the Lewis and Clark route in the State of North Dakota are adequate to meet National Park Service standards.

The managers support the decision of the Ozark National Scenic Riverways to retain the carpentry and maintenance positions. The managers recognize the urgent needs at

ONSR for key carpentry and maintenance personnel who have specialized skills in properly maintaining park facilities. The managers expect that these positions will be retained at ONSR.

The managers are aware of a recommendation by the National Park Service's National Leadership Council to consolidate funding for all aspects of the ongoing intake program into a centralized program. Currently, the salary costs are paid by the parks, regions, and program offices participating in the program. The managers have no objection to the internal reprogramming necessary (not to exceed \$1,106,000) to allow for centralized funding for this important program. This approach results in no net change in costs and should allow for greater participation in the program by more parks throughout the system.

The managers are aware that the EPA, through cooperative agreements with the National Park Service, has maintained a long-term environmental and air quality monitoring site in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park through the demonstration intensive site project and sites in wilderness areas of the Nantahala National Forest and Pisgah National Forest. The managers are concerned, however, by reports that the EPA may be considering terminating funding support for these monitoring sites. Because of the wealth of information provided to Federal, State and local stakeholders by the sites, the managers expect the EPA to continue its monitoring partnerships with the Great Smoky Mountains NP and both national forests. The managers are also aware of the vital role played by the Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative (SAMI), through the EPA, in studying the effects of air pollutants on the Great Smoky Mountains NP and nearby forests.

The managers wish to reiterate the concern expressed by the Senate with respect to the lack of adequate ambulance service at the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park Systems. The managers therefore direct that, within the amounts provided for operation of the National Park System, the Service shall provide the necessary funds, not to exceed \$350,000, for the Federal share of the cooperative effort to provide emergency medical services in the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. This support should be in addition to the Park's base operating funds.

The managers are aware that legislation currently under consideration would authorize the inclusion of the Wills House within Gettysburg National Military Park. Should such legislation be enacted, the managers encourage the Service to initiate rehabilitation of the House within available repair and rehabilitation funds.

The managers expect that funding for the First Ladies National Historic Site will be included in the fiscal year 2002 Park Service request and in all future budget requests.

UNITED STATES PARK POLICE

The conference agreement provides \$78,048,000 for the United States Park Police as a new appropriations account instead of \$75,641,000 as proposed by the House and \$76,441,000 as proposed by the Senate under the operation of the National park system account.

The increases to the budget request are associated only with the Washington Monument and several other nationally recognized park sites in Washington, D.C. and in certain cases represent one time only costs. The increases include \$235,000 for design costs associated with a visitor screening facility and x-ray machine at the Washington Monument, \$275,000 for design of a parkwide key system, \$997,000 to design and install closed circuit television and alarm systems at five specific